The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

Entered as second-class matter, September 10, 1913, at the Post-office at Washington, D. C., under the act of August 24, 1912.

HELP THE MINERS.

Local unions are urged to give prompt financial aid to the striking coal miners of Colorado.

VOL. 4, NO. 36 WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1914. WHOLE NO. 192

CONGRESS AGAIN CONVENES

Labor Legislation Has Favorable Position on Calendar.

UNIONISTS TO URGE NEW LAWS

An Especial Effort Will Be Made to Secure Passage of Seamen's, Immigration, and Convict Labor Bills.

Washington, Dec. 5.—Next Monday the sixty-fourth Congress will convene for its final or so-called "short" session.

The bills of interest to labor, scheduled for consideration at this time, together with their parliamentary standing, are as follows:

Seamen's bill—Passed Senate. House passed substitute, which is now in Senate committee.

Immigration—House passed Burnett bill, with literacy test. Senate committee on immigration has reported the bill favorably.

Domestic convict labor bill—House passed Booher-Hughes bill, which provides that convict labor goods shipped into another state shall be subject to the laws of that state. Reported favorably by Senate committee on education and labor.

Foreign convict bill—House passed Hensley-Stone bill, which makes it illegal to admit foreign goods, if made in whole or in part by convict labor. Reported favorably by Senate committee on manufactures.

Bureau of labor safety—Passed by the House. Reported favorably by Senate committee on education and labor.

Building regulations for District of Columbia—Passed House. In Senate committee on District of Columbia.

Locomotive inspection—Reported by the House committee on interstate and foreign commerce, and occupies fifth place on unanimous consent calendar. Special rule ordered for its consideration. This bill would extend boiler inspection law to cover machinery in connection with engine.

Minimum fine for violation of hours of service law—Passed House. In hands of Senate committee on interstate commerce. This bill fixes a minimum fine of $100 for violations of the law.

Prohibit Taylor or "speeding up" system in navy yards and government workshops—Deitrick bill has been reported favorably by House committee on labor. Subcommittee of Senate committee on education and labor has made a favorable report of the Borah bill, which refers to the same subject, to the full committee.

Kern-McGillicuddy bill, intended to strengthen and liberalize federal employes' compensation act has been reported favorably by the House committee on the judiciary.

Eight hours—Conservation bill, containing eight hour provision for miners and other employes of contractors and lessees, passed House. Before Senate committee on public lands.

Child labor—A number of bills bearing on this subject have been introduced. The Owen-Palmer bills are believed to be the best prepared measures. They provide for the prohibition of child labor products in interstate commerce. This principal has been indorsed by the House committee on labor, in a substitute bill reported to the House of Representatives.

Other bills to be considered are:

Industrial education.

To amend the act relating to the postal saving system.

To codify the laws relating to national elections.

To aid in the construction of rural post roads.

To revise the judicial code.

To regulate the wages of mechanics and laborers employed by the United States government.

To regulate the procedure in federal courts.

To shorten night work of post office clerks.

ANOTHER WAR PREVENTATIVE.

Boston, Mass., Dec. 5.—An international court that would enforce its decisions through the powerful and relentless methods of commercial nonintercourse is favored by Samuel J. Elder, former United States commissioner to The Hague, to end war. This is the plan suggested:

"Should this court be informed that a nation was disregarding its treaties or had even begun to increase its armament in preparation for war in excess of its agreed activity, this nation would be warned, and if it persisted would be cut off wholly from all communication with other civilized states. Credit would be refused, goods would not be sold or purchased and the mails would not be delivered, with the result that the offending nation would find itself paralyzed financially and would either come to terms or become bankrupt."

"Impossible," was the speaker's view of forming the United States of Europe. He said conditions on the continent were not in any way comparable with those in America.

TO PAY UNION RATES.

St. Louis, Mo., Dec. 5.—An ordinance providing for union scales of wages on city work is now before the mayor for signature, and it is believed by local organized workers same will be approved. The ordinance calls for the payment of wage rates "as shall from time to time be the prevailing rate for such mechanics and laborers, respectively, as are members of organized labor unions in said city." It is further provided that: "For the purpose of ascertaining such prevailing rate of wages, from time to time the officers charged with the duty of employing such mechanics and laborers shall be and are hereby authorized to resort to and make inquiry of the executive officers of such organized labor unions and to fix from time to time the rate of wages to be paid to such mechanics or laborers employed by the city so ascertained to be the prevailing rate among members of such unions."

WIRELESS TO RUN TRAINS.

Scranton, Pa., Dec. 5.—After a six months' trial, officers of the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western railroad announce that they will replace the wire system of telegraphy for wireless telegraphy in the operation of their passenger trains between Hoboken, N. J., this city, and Binghamton, N. Y. It is said that the company is equipping a wireless station in Buffalo, and when this is in operation the transportation department will be able to communicate direct from its western terminal to its eastern terminal, Hoboken.

AGAINST WAGE REDUCTIONS.

Hamilton, Ont., Dec. 5.—The central body is opposing the attempt to reduce wages in this city, which is favored by certain interests because of the supply of available labor.

RAINCOAT MAKERS UNITE.

St. Louis, Mo., Dec. 5.—Raincoat makers of this city have formed a union and have received a charter from the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union.

APPLAUD WILSON'S ANSWER

Trinidad, Col., Dec. 5.—The Free Press of this city applauds Secretary of Labor Wilson as follows because of this trade unionist's speech before the recent A. F. of L. convention:

"Answering his foes and maligners a few days ago in Philadelphia, William B. Wilson, Secretary of Labor, said:

" 'If securing justice to those who earn their living by the sweat of their face is partisanship, then count me a partisan on the side of the man that labors.'

"You have been criticised and accused of partisanship, but only by those greedy corporations which would rob the workingman of his last right or crust that they might more the speedily and surely pile up their dividends. No one with fairness or justice in his soul has so accused you, though, and it is good to see that you possess the courage and manhood to come right back at your traducers, although it was known all along that you did own to these things.

"Your office was created in the interests of the working public. You were appointed in order that the workingman might have a friend and a word in the big works going forward at Washington. You sensed the intention of your job, and you have proved yourself the man for the job.

"It is really lamentable that the enemies of labor should live to see the day when the toiler would have a real friend in a high place. It is quite too bad that the day should have arrived when the worker should be looked after just a trifle. But that day seems to be here, and while we are vastly sorry for them, it begins to look as if the harsh and labor fighting corporation would have to swallow their chagrin and make the best of the new conditions.

"Go to it, Mr. Wilson. Everytime a corporation abuses you we are going to go right out in front throw our hat in the air and give three cheers. Because we will know that when you are being abused you are doing your work in the right way."

PLEADS FOR PORTO RICANS.

Washington, Dec. 5.—President Gompers, of the A. F. of L. has forwarded to President Wilson a letter together with a copy of a resolution adopted at the recent A. F. of L. convention, urging, in the strongest terms, the appointment of a committee to "investigate the deplorable industrial conditions, as well as the general government affairs of the island of Porto Rico, especially in questions affecting education, health and sanitation, economic and living conditions of the working classes; and its financial resources, and to ascertain if it is true that the federal, as well as the organic law, has been continually violated by the big corporations which exploit the people of the island."

Mr. Gompers says that the proposed commission should be composed of men who will make a thorough investigation and not accept "mere courtesies and superficial official declarations as sufficient evidence" upon which to render decisions and make reports.

STATE PRISON SANITATION.

Utica, N. Y., Dec. 5.—Unsanitary prisons are interfering seriously with the work of getting New York state convicts into the habit of regular labor so that they will rehabilitate themselves when set at liberty, John B. Riley, state prison official, told delegates to a conference on charities and corrections, held in this city. Praising the present highway and farm labor of convicts, he added:

"Men can hardly be expected to be efficient workers who spend half of every day in cells unfit for human habitation. Nine-tenths of the inmates of our prisons are now, under the most favorable conditions, compelled to occupy cells three feet ten inches wide, seven feet long, and seven feet high without proper light, ventilation or sanitary convenience."

WON'T STOP MINE QUIZ.

Denver, Col., Dec. 5.—The joint appeal of Gov. Ammons and Gov.-elect Carlson to Chairman Walsh of the Federal Commission on Industrial Relations, to postpone the commission's investigation into Colorado's strike causes, has failed. Chairman Walsh notified the Colorado gentlemen it would be "impossible" to postpone the probe and closed his telegram with this statement: "Please be assured that no action will be taken subversive of the maintenance of peace and order, or which is not in full accord with the public welfare."

Ammons and Carlson said they feared the coming of the commission "might serve to inflame passions."

BLOCK ARMOR INQUIRY.

Philadelphia, Pa., Dec. 5.—Armor plate manufacturers in this state have blocked every effort of the congressional committee to secure information that will enable congress to determine whether the government should erect mills and manufacture its own armor plate. While the steel magnates have been placed on oath, the committee has practically failed in its purpose. The manufacturers defend their position on the ground that the United States is their competitor, and will be treated as such.

NUMBERS DON'T MAKE RIGHT.

Washington, Dec. 5.—In passing on the legality of Oklahoma's "jim crow" law, the court set aside that portion of the act which related to exclusive dining and sleeping cars, and making allowances for the number of persons of each race wishing to use these cars. The court held that the rights of a person should not depend on the number of persons demanding.

STRIKERS STANDING FIRM.

Gloversville, N. Y., Dec. 5.—A. F. of L. organizers are assisting striking glovemakers in this city to perfect their newly formed trade union, and these workers are more determined than ever to secure the wage increases they struck for. The state board of arbitration investigated conditions and reported in favor of the workers' demands, but employers have ignored the recommendation. Now the strikers are organizing.

DANCE IN SCHOOL BUILDINGS.

Toledo, Ohio, Dec. 5.—For the first time, dances are to be held in the public schools of this city, because, a member of the board of education said: "As long as pupils are going to hold dances, we believe it is better to have them in a public school building, where the teachers and board members have jurisdiction over them, than in a building where they are entirely beyond our control."

ASK HALF OFF SATURDAYS.

Duluth, Minn., Dec. 5.—Municipal employes have petitioned the city commissioners for a Saturday half holiday during the entire year. The rule now is for a Saturday half holiday from May 1 to September 1.

LIFE DEPENDS ON UNIONISM

Indianapolis, Dec. 5.—In an editorial on "Government Statistics Show Life Depends on Unionism," the United Mine Workers' Journal says:

"The verdict of the coroner's jury in over half the cases of death from accidents in the coal mines should be, 'Death was due to lack of organization.'

"Alabama, where they will tell you the operators lay awake nights figuring how best to advance the welfare of the miners, but where they have crushed out the union, killed eighty-four, as against twenty-five in Indiana, where the organization is 100 per cent strong; where the miners are able to safeguard their own interests, to a great extent, and to conduct their own welfare work.

"Colorado, as usual, presents a terrible high percentage. With less than 10,000 miners employed her death list is fifty-two, as compared with twenty-four in Iowa with some 20,000 miners employed.

"Compare Illinois, with her 82,000 miners; 111 fatalities, an unusually large number for Illinois, with West Virginia, partially organized only, with 468 fatalities.

"The evidence is here that the organization is directly responsible for the saving of the lives of the miners, and those who have worked under union and nonunion conditions can testify as to the vastly better sanitation in the union mines.

"If other reasons were lacking, the labor union has fully justified its existence by the fact that to it can be traced the saving of life and health."

TO PAY SCHOOL TEACHERS.

Cleveland, Dec. 5.—The Cleveland Grade Teachers' club has voted to reimburse the six teachers who were dismissed for activity in seeking to organize a union. The club will also pay all expenses incurred by the club's executive board in conducting the fight for higher pay for teachers. Miss Marie Claus, president of the club, was cheered when she stated that the Cleveland school teachers were victims of habit, the habit of being poorly paid, but that from now on they would make it a habit to continue demanding higher pay until the demand is granted. She urged the fixing of an initiation fee and dues, and declared that 200 fearless members were better than 1,400 who do not know where they stand.

Superintendent Frederick, who was fined and given a jail sentence because of his discharge of the organized teachers, has appealed his case.

PEONAGE LAW ILLEGAL.

Washington, Dec. 5.—The United States Supreme Court has held that the code of Alabama, which permits peonage, is unconstitutional because it conflicts with the thirteenth amendment of the Federal Constitution. It was charged that one J. A. Reynolds held E. W. Fields in peonage to work out a debt, and that Reynolds had Fields arrested, according to law, for the purpose of compelling him, by involuntary servitude, to pay the debt.

The defense was that Fields was convicted and fined by a court for selling mortgaged property, after which the court allowed Fields to confess judgment in accordance with the Alabama law, which was questioned in this case. Fields signed a contract to "work out" the debt, but later refused to abide by it, and was arrested.

TENNESSEE WORKERS ALERT.

Chattanooga, Tenn., Dec. 5.—The annual convention of the State Federation of Labor will meet in this city on Tuesday, December 29. Two of the most important pieces of legislation to be considered are workmen's compensation and convict labor. The unionists are quite certain the state commission appointed to investigate the question will report in favor of Tennessee adopting a compensation law, and the workers will strive to make the enactment as broad as possible.

All contracts at the state prison expire July 1 of next year, and provision must be made by the incoming legislature to care for convicts that will be forced idle as a result. Road building is favored by many unionists, and it is possible the convention will indorse this position.

UNION GIRLS OBJECT.

Chicago, Dec. 5.—Because a delegation of "society women" have taken it upon themselves to have twelve chaperons and ten investigators, to say nothing of a social secretary and one professional nurse, at the municipal dance halls, soon to open in this city, union girls are up in arms and are writing tart letters to city officials. The girls protest at this assumption of "guardianship," applied only to them.

"Who will chaperon the society women while they chaperon us?" asks Anna Schmidt, organizer of the Waitresses' union. This query illustrates the mental attitude of the protestors.

WANT LAW AMENDED.

St. Paul, Dec. 5.—President Hall, of the Minnesota State Federation of Labor, has appointed a committee to take charge of several amendments to the compensation law, which will be submitted to the next legislature. The amendments include:

Full medical attendance.

Compensation from date of injury if disability lasts over thirty days.

Funeral benefit of $100 in all cases.

Increasing maximum to $15.

Raising the percentage from 50 to 65 per cent.

SAVE THE BUREAU.

Lincoln, Nebr., Dec. 5.—Trade unionists are preparing to resist the proposal to combine the state labor bureau with other state bureaus, which is being quietly urged in certain sections of this state. The organized workers declare this bureau belongs to the laboring people of Nebraska, the unorganized as well as the organized, and it is needed that their interests may be protected by this "friend at court."

FINED FOR "CRIMPING."

New York, Dec. 5.—James J. McNamara, one of New York's most prominent shipping masters, was fined $750 in the Federal District Court for "crimping," the term used by sailors when money is taken from them with the understanding they will be given jobs. One of McNamara's agents was held in $1,500 bond.

FARMERS TO CO-OPERATE.

Little Rock, Ark., Dec. 5.—Secretary-Treasurer Moore, of the Arkansas Federation of Labor, attended a meeting of the executive committee of the State Farmers' union and received assurances of hearty co-operation wherever possible.

ORGANIZING WAITRESSES.

Boston, Dec. 5.—Meetings are being held in this city for the purpose of interesting waitresses in trades unionism.

IMMIGRATION FIGURES.

Washington, Dec. 5.—The war is resulting in steady immigration decreases to this country, is the story told in the figures contained in the Department of Labor's immigration bulletin for September, which shows that 44,624 immigrants arrived during that time. In August, the number was 51,231; July, 72,015; June, 85,094; May, 126,848.

The September report shows that immigration decreases come from southern and western Europe. Excepting Germany, the other countries contribute the same ratio as in the May report, which showed 126,848 immigrants arrived. Of this number (in May) southern Italy contributed 22,477. In September, 13,041 came from southern Italy. In May, 10,256 Polish arrived; in September the number was 420.

IMMIGRATION TIDE SHIFTS

Washington, Dec. 5.—In a statement prepared by the National Geographic Society, it is shown that the character of the annual influx of new blood from Europe to America has undergone a very remarkable change in recent decades.

"During the decades of 1881-1890 the tide of humanity from Europe brought us 1,452,000 Germans and 307,000 Italians. The decade of 1901-1910 brought 341,000 Germans and 2,045,000 Italians. The figures indicate the falling off of immigration from northwestern Europe and the rise of the tide from southeastern Europe.

"One person out of every seven in the United States was born outside of our borders. We have today 13,500,000 people of foreign birth with us, and nearly all of them are from Europe. They constitute a population approximately equal to the combined populations of Belgium and Holland, or of Norway, Sweden, Denmark and Switzerland.

"Approximately, 5,250,000 people came to the United States to stay during the decade between 1900 and 1910. History records no other such great migration as this. Compared with it, the Tartar invasion of Russia, the Saracen invasion of southern Europe and the exodus of the children of Israel were insignificant in numbers."

FREE LABOR COMES FIRST

St. Paul, Dec. 5.—Free labor must be given first consideration, is the thought behind a decision by Attorney General Smith, who has ruled on the contemplated action of the prison board in manufacturing chairs and settees of wood wrapped with prepared paper. This is proposed to furnish work for convicts in place of the prison shoe contracts, which were ended last summer.

In answer to the board's query as to the legality of this action, the attorney general said:

"The object of the law is to permit introduction in the state prison, under proper conditions, such industries as are not carried on in the state and which do not diminish the market for free labor in the state.

"If the proposed industry is to be deemed an independent industry and is not carried on in the state, then you may introduce such industries into the state prison.

"Your board should make a thorough investigation and ascertain whether it is probable that in the introduction of this industry you would not reduce the amount of the work in the state by persons not confined in prisons.

"The law must be interpreted in the light of its purpose, which is to employ a certain amount of the convict labor in some industry, provided it does not interfere with the employment of their labor in the state."

APPOINT ARBITRATORS.

Boston, Mass., Dec. 5.—District Attorney Pelletier has been selected as the third member of an arbitration board that will take up the wage question of the employes of the Bay State Street Railway company. Hearings will start Dec. 17.

Conferences have been held between the company and its employes for several months. They were brought to a close a few weeks ago when the company made a compromise offer of practically one-half a cent an hour increase. This offer was rejected almost unanimously by the employes the very next night at simultaneous meetings of the twenty-six locals, and it was agreed that the matter should be placed in the hands of an arbitration board.

SURVEY FOR ALASKA RAILROAD

Washington, Dec. 5.—Chairman Edes, of the commission named by Secretary of the Interior Lane to select routes for the proposed government-owned railroad in Alaska, has returned to this city after a field survey, and is now preparing a report on prospective routes. It is believed the commission will also recommend the government taking over the Copper River or the Alaska Northern railroad.

WILL ACT TOGETHER.

Oklahoma City, Okla., Dec. 5.—The joint legislative board, consisting of representatives of the State Federation of Labor, Farmers' union, and the Brotherhoods of Engineers and Firemen, will meet in this city, December 15, for the purpose of framing remedial legislation to be introduced at the next session of the state legislature.

WIN LONG FIGHT.

Oakland, Cal., Dec. 5.—The Retail Clerks' association and the Tailors' union have won a victory over a large clothing concern that operates stores in this city, as well as in Los Angeles and San Diego. The contest has been a stubborn one and has lasted for over a yar.

ELECTRICIANS RAISE WAGES.

San Diego, Cal., Dec. 5.—Electrical workers in this city have raised wages from $4 to $4.50 per day to take effect March 1 next. This increase applies to inside wiremen. All contractors have agreed to recognize the union, and employ only members of that organization.

HOLD OPEN-AIR MEETINGS.

Cleveland, Dec. 5.—As a part of their organizing campaign in this city the International Ladies' Garment Workers' union is holding open-air meetings in the vicinity of factories. The plan is proving successful.

PLEADS FOR VENTILATION

Harrisburg, Pa., Dec. 5.—"More people die from the improper use of steam heat than freeze to death," said State Commissioner of Health Dixon in a warning to the public to guard against gases and to make sure of a proper quantity of fresh air during the winter.

"When the first cold snap comes," he said, "down go the windows in homes and offices, and whatever fresh air is obtained finds its way in when somebody opens the door to enter or depart.

"If the heating arrangements are deemed insufficient they are often supplemented with oil heaters or gas stoves. In the vast majority of cases these have no flue connections, and as they burn they exhaust the oxygen in the air with great rapidity. When the atmosphere in a room is devitalized in this manner, it becomes dangerously unfit to breathe, as the life-supporting qualities are exhausted.

"When gas stoves are used without ventilation there is danger from carbon monoxide gas. This is an odorless gas which also escapes from coal fire, one per cent of which will kill a horse in two minutes. It is visible as the blue flame which burns over anthracite coal after it is put on the fire. This gas will often permeate the entire house from the furnace in the cellar or from the kitchen range. The sulphurous gas which escapes with it is irritating to the olfactory organ and so usually gives warning.

"To guard against the escape of gases, firedoors and stove lids should not be opened or removed beyond the point where the flame of a match held close outside will be drawn inward. As long as the draft is up the chimney the gas will be carried with it."

CITIZENS MUST BE AROUSED.

Boston, Mass., Dec. 5.—In a public address, Health Commissioner McLaughlin declared the average American citizen would not obey a sanitary order unless its purpose was understood. "Once the matter is made clear to him," said the speaker, "his is no perfunctory compliance." To make this possible, it was urged that a campaign of education be started. The health official said:

"The press, the pulpit and the schools can all be made powerful factors in this campaign for better hygienic conditions. Settlement workers, nursing associations and other philanthropic agencies can be enlisted.

"Certainly one of the most important agencies is the public school. I know of no field so promising for public health instruction as the public schools, and especially the lower grades.

"We tested this plan thoroughly in the Philippines in time of cholera epidemics, and this was the most effective way of reaching the parents in the poorest homes."

BUILDING TRADES ELECT.

Philadelphia, Dec. 5.—The Building Trades Department of the A. F. of L. changed its constitution at its annual meeting to conform to the A. F. of L. convention decision that hereafter department affiliation must be voluntary and not compulsory on the part of the various national and international organizations.

President Williams and Secretary-Treasurer Spencer were unanimously re-elected. The convention reduced the number of its executive board to five vice presidents, as follows: George F. Hedrick, painters; F. J. McNulty, electrical workers; John J. Hynes, sheet metal workers; Joseph E. McGlory, structural iron workers; Walter V. Price, marble setters.

San Francisco was selected as the next convention city.

NAVY YARD ECONOMY PRAISED.

Washington, Dec. 5.—That the gunboat Monocacy was built by the government at the Mare Island (Cal.) navy yard, transported to Shanghai, China, and there re-erected by contract at a cost totaling only two-thirds of the sum asked by private shipbuilders, is one of the references on navy yard economy found in the annual report of Rear Admiral Watt, chief of the bureau of construction and repair of the navy.

"There is now a greater value of new shipbuilding work in progress and authorized at navy yards, and a larger number of navy yards so employed at new construction than ever before in the history of the new navy," the report declares.

TO COLLECT WAGES.

Olympia, Wash., Dec. 5.—A debtor's court for the collection of wages of workingmen is favored by Labor Commissioner Olson in his annual report, which shows that many laboring men are forced to sue for money they have earned, and the expense attached to these suits very often depletes the sums collected. The commissioner also favors a law which will increase the authority of his office to secure necessary data from employers; amendments to the eight-hour public works law, which will clarify certain sections; the establishment of free employment agencies, and changes which will broaden and render more effective the factory inspection law.

TO TEST WOMEN'S LAW.

Washington, Dec. 5.—Briefs have been filed in the United States Supreme court attacking the constitutionality of the Oregon minimum wage law for women. Summed up, the briefs hold that such legislation is beyond the power of a state, is unsupported by public opinion, would be destructive of business, and would increase the cost of living.

Noncompulsory legislation in Massachusetts and Nebraska is approved in the briefs, but the compulsory legislation in Oregon, Washington, Colorado, Wisconsin, Minnesota, California, and Utah is condemned.

WANT FREE BALLOT.

Hamilton, Ont., Dec. 5.—The Trades and Labor Council is discussing a resolution which provides for a campaign throughout the province for the abolition of property qualifications for municipal elective offices. The workers urge that the qualification for candidates for election to the legislature is sufficient.

TALK TO LONGSHOREMEN.

Baltimore, Dec. 5.—Enthusiasm was manifest at the open meeting of longshoremen in this city, which was addressed by International President O'Connor and others. The speakers agreed that the time was ripe for organizing the Atlantic seaboard and extending the good work that is being done in this city.

ONE HUNDRED YEARS OLD.

Washington, Dec. 5.—The Typographical union of this city has appointed a committee to arrange a celebration in honor of its one hundredth anniversary. The event will take place Sunday, January 10, 1915.

HOW TO END PEACE RAVAGES

San Francisco, Dec. 5.—Says the Bulletin of this city in an editorial entitled "Where War Now Concerns Us Most:"

"It may have occurred to a great many that it is too bad that we in the United States should talk so much and worry so much over a war in Europe when the preventable deaths and preventable suffering and waste of all kinds in our own country in time of peace probably is more than the total of even the hugest war. It does not cost a cent to become indignant over the misdeeds of kings and emperors in Europe. A captain of industry can shed as many tears as he wants to over Belgium without making it any harder for himself to take away the savings of widows and orphans. A nation which is not too introspective, as nations aren't in times of foreign crises like this one, is a good place for certain kinds of business.

"This is all true, every word of it, but it does not alter the unpleasant truth that we, as a nation, must make up our minds about this war, and about war in general, and about what we are going to do for or against war on this continent before we can do much else. The war question has arisen across our path, like a man with a gun, and asks us what we are going to do about it. Europe's war starts a new era, either way it is taken. Either it means disarmament and the beginning of sane and rational world progress, or it means more fear of wars, and, therefore, more militarism and more wars and a rapid downhill movement of the world's civilization. The time is gone by when a nation can quibble and dally over the war question. We can't keep on building battleships and fortifications and training soldiers and expect war to abolish itself. That has been tried, and it didn't work.

"Watching Europe is a very profitable occupation for us now, even if it does involve letting our other work slack up for a while. Watching Europe will surely teach us here in America how ignoble, how filthy, how utterly degrading and vile, how futile, what a dreadful enemy of human happiness war really is. We are likely to conclude not to imitate Europe, and then we will have time and strength to lessen the ravages of peace."

URGE BOYS TO JOIN UNION.

Detroit, Mich., Dec. 5.—In an address to union newsboys, Judge Jeffries, the well-known police court official of this city, said:

"The world has come to the point where we must belong to some kind of an organization in order to exist. Men in unions are getting high wages because they are in an organization. They are getting wise, and they are learning that by combination they can get better conditions. You boys, as you come together, one, two and three, help yourselves. The world is no longer beginning to rate men by physical strength. Some men accumulate fortunes and don't know how to spend them. What we want is to let all have better houses, better food and better clothing."

ARBITERS IN SESSION.

Chicago, Dec. 5.—The arbitration board to consider wage demands of Western railroad engineers and firemen is now in session. Nearly 60,000 workers, employed on 98 roads, are interested. Through their brotherhoods they are asking for a standard rate of wages and a standard day, with special rates of pay for overtime. In the hope of standardizing wages among the employes on freight engines and trains in the western territory, the brotherhoods have suggested that pushers, helpers, men on mine runs, belt lines, transfer lines, wrecking trains, and other unclassified service should be paid on a basis of through freight pay.

Last spring both parties to the controversy discussed these questions, but failed to agree, and the men, by an overwhelming vote, favored a strike. As a last resort it was agreed to arbitrate.

CHILDREN DON'T COUNT.

Washington, Dec. 5.—The United States Supreme court will decide whether the number of children are to be considered when awarding damages to the widow of a man killed by a railroad. The Norfolk & Western railroad has raised the question against a woman who won her damage case in the lower court, but which is now appealed on the ground that the judge instructed the jury, which found for the woman, that it should take into consideration the fact that there were dependent children.

INSIST ON LIVING WAGE.

Philadelphia, Pa., Dec. 5.—Let workingmen, in their efforts to secure a higher wage standard, conduct their affairs as business men do was the advice of Prof. Scott Nearing, of the University of Pennsylvania, who made this suggestion in a speech this week:

"Learn to keep books. Demand a wage sufficient to cover upkeep, interest, depreciation, insurance and dividends once in a while. These things you are entitled to in the same sense that any business is entitled to them. Do not stop until you get them."

COLLECT COMPENSATION.

Waterbury, Conn., Dec. 5.—While collecting insurance, Henry J. Larke suffered a freezing of the nose and nasal tissues, resulting in erysipelas, from which he died last March. His widow sued the company, and in a decision just filed by Compensation Commissioner Williams, it is held that employes subjected to excessive cold, which results either in injuries or death, can collect compensation.

INCREASE WAGES.

Toledo, Ohio, Dec. 5.—Sheet metal workers and their employers have agreed on a new scale, after several conferences. Wages have been increased from 37 1-2 cents to 42 1-2 cents an hour. A day's work will consist of eight hours, forty-eight hours to constitute a week's work. All Sunday and holiday work will be paid for at the rate of double time. The rate for overtime is to be time and one-half.

"INEQUALITY ESSENTIAL."

Chicago, Dec. 5.—Ex-President Taft is quoted as saying in a speech before college men in this city:

"What makes the world a living, growing thing is not that we are based on equality, but on inequality. There must be inequality of awards to stimulate human nature to greater and higher things."

WANT STATE PRINTING OFFICE.

Omaha, Dec. 5.—The Typographical union has appointed a committee and started a campaign to develop sentiment for a state printing office. The law now provides for a printing commissioner, and the typos ask that this law be extended so that the commissioner will have control of all state printing.

TO AVOID ANOTHER STRIKE

President Still at Work on Colorado's Troubles.

NEW COMMISSION IS APPOINTED

Plan to Settle Future Differences Will Be Recommended—Old Commission Continues Effort to Mediate Present Difficulties.

Washington, Dec. 5.—President Wilson has appointed Seth Low, of New York; Charles W. Mills, of Philadelphia, and Patrick Gilday, of Clearfield, Pa., district president United Mine Workers, as a commission through which future differences between operators and miners involved in the present Colorado coal strike may be settled.

It is stated that this commission was not appointed to deal with the existing differences, which have caused so much turmoil in Colorado. Hywel Davies, of the Kentucky Operators' Association, and W. R. Fairley, of the United Mine Workers, the conciliators who have been attempting to settle the strike for several months, will continue in their efforts to have the operators and miners agree on a settlement of the present strike.

In a statement accompanying the appointment of the new commission, President Wilson said:

"The strike of the miners in Colorado, which has now lasted for twelve months, has attracted the attention of the whole country and has been accompanied by many distressing and tragical circumstances. The mediation of the government of the United States was offered early in the struggle, but the operators of the mines were unwilling to avail themselves of it, or to act upon the suggestions made in the interest of peace by representatives of the Department of Labor, authorized by statute to serve in such cases. It became necessary to send Federal troops in the district affected by the strike in order to preserve the peace, but their presence could, of itself, accomplish nothing affirmative."

The President further states that, "after long waiting," he ventured to propose a plan of temporary settlement, to be put into operation for three years, pending a permanent adjustment between the operators and miners.

"The striking miners promptly accepted it," continues the President, "but the mine operators rejected it, saying, in response to my earnest appeal, that they objected to its most essential features; namely, the proposed arrangements by which the miners might state their grievances through a committee, and by which differences might be settled by reference to a commission appointed by the President of the United States.

"I think the country regretted their decision and was disappointed that they should have taken so uncompromising a position. I have waited and hoped for a change in their attitude, but now fear that there will be none. And yet I do not feel that I am at liberty to do nothing in the presence of circumstances so serious and distressing.

"Merely to withdraw the Federal troops and leave the situation to clear and settle itself would seem to me to be doing something less than my duty after all that has occurred.

"I have, therefore, determined to appoint the commission contemplated in the plan of temporary settlement, notwithstanding the rejection of that plan by the mine operators, and thus, at least, to create the instrumentality by which like troubles and disputes may be amicably and honorably settled in the future."

STATE DECLARES DIVIDENDS.

New York, Dec. 5.—The workmen's compensation commission has authorized the state insurance fund to "announce that it expects to declare dividends averaging 15 per cent on the business of the six months' period, July 1 to December 31, 1914."

It is also announced that "employers who placed their insurance in the state fund will save, on the basis of initial rates, 8 1-3 per cent below the rates of the liability companies, and prospectively 15 per cent dividends, approximately $250,000, on the cost of their insurance for the first six months, as compared with what they would have been obliged to pay if insured in stock companies. On the other hand, employers who elected stock company insurance will pay, according to the same estimate, at least $1,250,000 more than their insurance would have cost them in the state fund."

It is stated that readjustments of rates for the next six months' period will be made, and this will reduce the state fund charges 20 per cent below those of liability companies.

WANT STATE MILITIA.

Stockton, Cal., Dec. 5.—From reliable sources comes the information that the employers' association of this city has made two demands on Gov. Johnson that he order the state militia into Stockton. The request for the soldiers has been denied. As a part of their plan to manufacture public opinion the anti-unionists have been forwarding communications to the common council urging that "police protection" be given them. The last letter closed with this demand: "We wish to know whether or not you are going to comply with this request." The unions have asked that their differences with employers be submitted to arbitration, but this has been refused by the association that has flooded the city with strikebreakers and gunmen, while continually preaching law and order.

CONVICT SUES FOR WAGES.

Providence, R. I., Dec. 5.—The State Supreme court is hearing arguments on the constitutionality of the law which authorizes the state to make contracts selling the labor of prisoners without compensating them. William Anderson, a former convict, is sueing a garment company which holds a contract with the state for labor of prisoners. Anderson contends that the company should pay him wages for the work he did while a convict, and holds that enforced servitude on the part of a prisoner is slavery, and that the state constitution prohibits slavery, without making an exception against convicts. The court's decision will have a bearing on convict labor in other states.

DAIRY WORKERS ORGANIZE.

Wheeling, W. Va., Dec. 5.—Dairy workers of this city have formed a union and applied to the A. F. of L. for a charter. They will be known as an A. F. of L. federal union, because there is no national or international union of these workers, who number nearly 200 in this vicinity.

WYOMING IN LINE.

Cheyenne, Wyo., Dec. 5.—Unofficial returns show that the constitutional amendment, providing for workmen's compensation, has carried by a vote of 2,281. It is believed the official returns will not bring about a sufficient change to defeat the amendment.